



Montgomery County Lodge 35, Inc.

November 5, 1987

Honorable Rose Crenca  
Montgomery County Council  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

RE: Council Bill 48-87  
Collective Bargaining - Firefighters

Dear President Crenca:

I am writing to express Lodge 35's support for Council Bill 48-87. This bill, provides for a separate collective bargaining unit for certain fire/rescue employees as authorized by Charter Section 511, approved by the voters of Montgomery County in November 1986.

As you well know, most of the County's fire/rescue personnel have, until just recently, been employed by separate "quasi-public" fire departments, but are now County employees. See Council Bill 42-87.

Given the unique nature of fire/rescue work and the Council's vote to make fire/rescue personnel County employees, we honestly believe that this bill, if passed, will accomplish a legitimate purpose and that it is in the best interest of the deserving citizens of our community.

Fire/rescue employees perform jobs and have needs unique to their profession which are significantly different than those of all other County employees. Moreover, they are essential to the protection of the life, health and safety of each and every County resident.

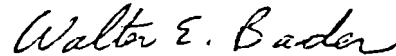
This legislation is consistent with that of many other area governments where fire/rescue personnel are represented by a separate bargaining representative. E.g. Prince Georges County; Washington, D.C.; Baltimore City; Anne Arundel County.

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In sum, fire/rescue personnel of Montgomery County have recently been made County employees. They have a community of interest and perform unique, vital lifesaving functions. Therefore, we encourage the Council to vote for Council Bill 43-87 to allow fire/rescue personnel to collectively bargain over those matters previously declared appropriate for bargaining. This right is already afforded area fire/rescue personnel and is in the best interest of the public.

Your consideration is most greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Walter E. Bader  
President

WEB/saw  
cc: Bruce Adams  
Michael Gudis  
William Hanna  
Isiah Leggett  
Neal Potter  
Michael Subin